of this nature are touched upon. The exact factor in diagnosis is given in lumbar puncture and examination of the cephalorachidian liquid; but this case came too late for that. Thus infantile paralysis is preferred to cerebrospinal meningitis as diagnosis, first on account of the precocity of the paralytic troubles, which are later in meningitis; also because of the absence of pain and stiffness of the side and neck; also the short duration of the paralysis in certain muscles.

If, as we believe, this was a case of acute anterior poliomyelitis, this observation furnishes a novel example of myelopathic muscular atrophy of radicular topography.

3. *Changes in Radicular Cells after Rupture.*—A type in this class of cells has been noted worthy of remark; the altered cell-bodies not only fail to present central chromatolysis, which is normally seen after the solution of the continuity of peripheral nerves, but on the contrary the chromophilic elements, sometimes massed and distributed concentrically about the nucleus, were strongly colored. Usually they form filaments more or less oblong in layers about the nucleus. The size of the filaments is variable, sometimes of short diameter, sometimes with longitudinal diameter scarcely exceeding transverse. Otherwise they look like long filaments. Illustrations are given with the article. Without the central zone was a peripheral arc, where colored corpuscles in the form of long filaments, much paler than those of the perinuclear zone, and of varied directions, were found; in the cell-body they were distributed in layers about the central zone; in the periphery the direction was longitudinal. In the protoplasmic prolongations the filaments were equally longitudinal, and notably one could see on some that not only in entering the cellular body did they keep their primary direction more or less independent of that shown by the corpuscles of the cellular body, but they crossed the cell-body to continue in protoplasmic prolongations nearby or on the opposite side. The special distribution of the chromophilic bodies of the protoplasmic prolongations following ablation of a more or less long nerve tract was found by the author, and the importance was hardly realized at first. The intimate relations of the tracts of fibrils of the achromatic substance with the corpuscles of Nissl was recognized; was this, then, a special reaction for ruptured nerve, as it has been noticed only in such cases? Rupture hardly explains it, as there was possibly a latent disposition brought into evidence by traumatism. After traumatism greater absorption of nutritive liquid takes place. This explains alteration in the volume of the cell; moreover, the fibrillar fascicles were more or less dispersed after serous discharge, so that the tract of chromophilic elements in the interior could be more easily seen. But this did not explain why the chromophilic elements were paler and less prominent in the periphery than in the central part. It may be admitted, the author says, from work done on the fine structure of cells of the spinal ganglia, that in certain cells the relation of the axis cylinder is closer to the peripheral fibrils, while in others the contrary is the case. JELLIFFE.

Neurologisches Centralblatt.

(1902. May 1, No. 9.)

1. Judges and Experts. NÄCKE.
2. Notice on Character Changes following Brain Injury. M. FRIEDMANN.
3. Further on Asthenic Paralysis. S. GOLDFLAM.

1. *Judges and Experts.*—A reply to Hoches' article (N. C'b't, No. 7) concerning the relations of the judge and the medical expert.

(2) *Brain Injury and Character Changes.*—Friedmann reports the pathological findings in two rabbits on which experimental puncture of the brain had been performed. A complete change in the character of the animals developed. This consisted mainly in a condition of ceaseless activity, and a change to a wilder disposition in the animals. In these animals there was present an intense lymphoid inflammation in the lymph spaces, about the blood vessels and in the pericellular spaces. These changes were very elusive and were considered as the manifestation of a condition of chronic irritation.

(3) To be continued.

McCarthy (Philadelphia).

MISCELLANY.

Alcohol a food or Poison? Kassowitz (Pfluger's Archiv. f. Physiol., June 3, 1902).

The conclusions of this author, as to whether alcohol can, in the same organism, act at once as a food and a poison, are as follows: There is a supposition that alcohol has a nutritive value, in that, during the process of its metabolism, a portion of it is directly split up or burned without being first built up into the protoplasmic substances. There follows, as a natural corollary to this belief the assumption that foods equally valuable as fuel can be substituted for one another. This, however, has been proved false by authenticated experiment. This hypothesis disposed of, there remains the reasonable supposition, borne out by the facts obtainable, that all foods are assimilated into the protoplasmic structures, the products of metabolism resulting from the splitting up of this chemical unity. A high degree of complexity of the protoplasmic molecule and unstability of equilibrium are implied by this assumption. The labile molecules of protoplasm are disorganized by all stimuli and chemically active poisons, therefore, since protoplasm is distributed by alcohol, not only as a stimulus but also as a poison, it follows that it cannot also act as a food. The toxic effect of alcohol is an increased nitrogenous elimination, the protoplasm disorganizing, either with the splitting off of fat and nitrogenous waste products, or a nitrogenous retention manifested by the splitting off and formation of gelatin-yielding tissues in the form of connecting tissue fibers, showing itself by the formation of inflammatory products in the different tissues and organs. After a short period of stimulation by alcohol the production of carbonic acid is decreased by paralysis of the centers of innervation and the consequent diminution of their activity, which does not mean a sparing of the tissue-fats and proteids, but is an indirect result of the toxic action of alcohol. The observation that a diminished working capacity and dissipation of the vital resources follows the substitution of alcohol of equal caloric power for a part of one's non-nitrogenous food, accords with the theory as stated. That the nutritive property of a substance cannot depend upon oxidation in the organism, and, therefore, that alcohol is useless as a food, is shown the author by these facts, and from them he draws the conclusion that neither for the sick nor well should alcohol be used for the purpose of supplying food.

Jelliffe.

Senile Tabes. A. Pitrés (Jour. de Med. de Bordeaux, May 18, 1902).

Although locomotor ataxia is most common between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five years, this author reports that one-fourth of the cases which he observed occurred after the fiftieth year, and of these three were after the seventieth year. Of these three, two had